

THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

Vol. 3, No 11

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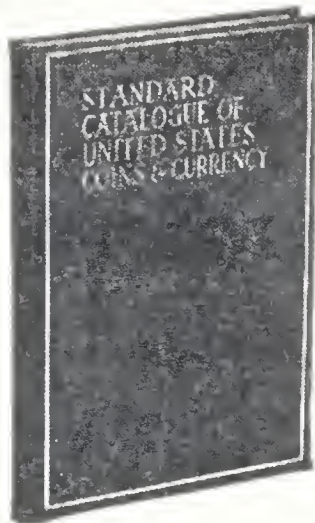
GOLD COINS OF BOLIVIA

SEE PAGE 241

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THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

FOUNDED BY JOHN W. SCOTT IN 1875

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Vol. 3, No. 11

New York, February, 1937

Whole No. 35

Why and How to Collect Ancient Greek Coins

The Way to Form a Small Collection with Limited Means

By PAUL S. SZEGO, Ph.D.

PART TWO

THEN again: close to the former on a tray we notice another neat bronze, a youthful head to the right, with a reverse showing a burning torch. It dawns upon us that we have already seen this torch somewhere. Yes,—on a rich and expensive tetradrachm of Amphypolis.



Tetradrachm of Amphypolis

And sure enough, on your little bronze you notice around the lighted torch the four letters: **ΑΜΦ!**, and buy the coin with the satisfied feeling that although you cannot afford the heavy, rare silver, yet you do have a genuine, original



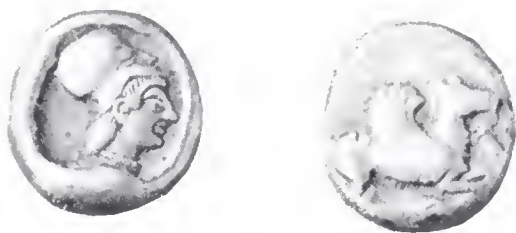
Bronze of Amphypolis

Acanthus and Amphypolis, no substitutes! And if you bought at the same time one or two more easily accessible better silvers too, you march out of your dealer-friends' place walking on air, with a peculiar feeling of satisfaction as though you had eaten a big and excellent meal. But, to be sure, in a few days the feeling of saturation gradually disappears, and in a week you go back for more.

For the poison is in your veins: you are an addict. A novice in a fascinating, ennobling avocation, you are on the road to become a numismatist. You begin to read up on your coins and seek the company of other collectors. You may join a numismatic organization, get

friendly guidance from its officials, and, although you have a few things on your conscience when your wife throws a searching look at you, your coin trays, nevertheless, begin to show signs of gradual gains. They are better filled, the outlines are more distinct, the varieties more numerous, the hitherto disconnected pieces start to form the links of a chain. You begin to show your coins to friends who consider you mildly balmy, but envy you, nevertheless, in the depths of their hearts.

Now, when you have some coins of the more important cities, you begin to assort them according to denominations. You discover that you have two Athenian tetradrachms, also a triobol ($1\frac{1}{2}$ drachm) and two small bronzes of the same city. But as yet you have no drachm, neither have you coins of the smaller fractions, those manifold varieties of obols, half-obols, three-half obols, etc. Now you keep your eyes open and at the first opportunity when you notice a fairly nice one-drachm piece, you pounce upon it and upon other lacking pieces in their turn, and pay for them a good price, while neglecting at the same time more attractive bargains. For you are out to make the second step: to arrange coins of some leading cities according to denominations, to form another chain within the first chain. By now this is serious collecting, which, if you are systematical and if your pocketbook does not give out, will be followed by the purchase of the same denominations but with an



Stater of Corinth

older, more archaic appearance. Now you are at arranging another subdivision in your collection, laying out the lines according to age too. First very archaic,

nearly crude pieces, then the best late-archaic style, still somewhat hard and primitive, but lovely in its naive simplicity, then the period of transition to the finest art, (usually the middle and latter part of the fifth century B.C. and the earlier part of the fourth), and thereafter a slow, gradual decline when your pieces again look crude but now without the exhilarating beauty of the archaic times,—and finally your coins will ebb away in the all-embracing sea of Roman uniformity: the "Pax Romana" (the universal Peace forced upon all subjected nations by Rome), killed the once great and original Greek coinage".

*

These are about the phases how to lay out a collection. Now let us spread out our coin-trays and survey the results of our patient work and some times even of our self-denial. If you look into your coins the basin of the Mediterranean sea ought to reflect into your eyes, with its hinterland, as far Greek culture or at least some vague pulse beats of Greek style traveled through trade-exchange.

Our point of departure as that of any organized collection of Greek coins is the mythical land where Europe and Africa lie the closest. There, at present-day Gibraltar and its counterpart on the Moroccan shore, Spanish Ceuta, frown from their lofty perch upon the wayfarers of the sea. Twenty-five centuries ago this spot was called "The Pillars of Hercules" upon which supposedly the weight of the Heavens rested. We neglect, for the time being, the cloud-hidden shores of Northwest Africa and start our voyage northward into Iberia (Spain) "where the women are dark and passionate, where spearheads grow on trees" and flat cakes of silver bear the image of a charging horseman, with a usually bearded head on the obverse. These are the denarii of the Iberian celts, not very beautiful, but interesting in their somewhat original interpretation of Roman samples. If we

have one or two of these, that is enough for a small collection. On wings of our thoughts we continue farther north into Gallia Lugdunensis, the present-day France. Its inhabitants, together with their brethren, the Belgian and Helvetian Gauls, fashioned their coins in a peculiar manner. Instead of striking them with dies as the overwhelming part of coins was produced, they cast them in molds, about a dozen or more in a string, then chopped them apart with chisel and hammer, caring nothing how the remnants of the connecting links might disfigure the blunt bronze or potin³ pieces. They aren't exactly beautiful, to be sure, but they are quaint and recognizable from far. For the meaning of their primitive dots and lines you would have to consult the shades of Vercingetorix⁴. A few of these coins are necessary to represent the type of Gallic coinage. Entirely Greek is on the other hand the coinage of nearby Massalia, the present-day Marseilles, with their references to Apollon and Artemis, and the lion of Phokaia, whence they came.

Then we cross the Channel, to pick up the trail of Barbarian coinage in ancient Britain. The British coins, as well as most of the above described Gallic pieces can be traced to the gold-states of Philip II of Macedon. These and Philip's silver issues became immensely popular with the Barbarians, from the Balkans into Britannia. They readily accepted them and imitated them in turn for many centuries to come. The beautiful Apollo-head, the swift biga⁵ on the reverse were "interpreted" by barbaric artisans throughout the centuries, until the head became hardly recognizable and the horses a maze of dots, dashes and flourishes. The reverse is usually mildly concave, like the "rainbow-saucers" of their blood-relatives, the Danubian Celts. If we have one or two of those Briton coins, at least in copper, we have something to show for ancient Britannia. These pieces are fairly uncommon and nice to have.

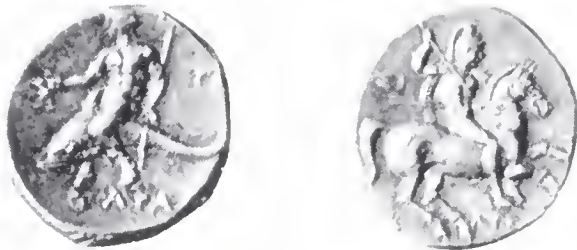
We shall travel now leagues and leagues on end until we leave behind the misty forests of Gallia and Helvetia (Switzerland), and knock at the gates of our first classic land, the sun-blessed Italy. It is not very likely that our modest collection can boast some coins of Etruria, Umbria, Latium or any other of the Italiotes. But sunny Campania shall requite us with one or two of the didrachm-staters of Neapolis. They are beautifully modeled silver pieces of medium size, showing a female head on their obverse and on the reverse the mythical man-headed bull of Campania, crowned by Victory. Whether the bull, which may be the personification of the river-god Acheloös, is being crowned for a Neapolitan victory in battle, or simply as manly symbol of South-Italian prolificacy,—who could answer this to-



Didrachm of Neapolis

day? . . . Now follow a few coins of the mighty Rome. Roman coins, as mentioned above, are not part of a Greek collection. Exceptions are, however, those early Romans, which by permission of and arrangement with the authorities of Rome, were struck in Grecian Campania, presumably in Capua. They are called Romano-Campanians, and the best known example of them is a didrachm with the youthful Janiform head, the reverse showing Jove hurling his thunderbolts from an onrushing quadriga⁶. From the four horses these pieces received the popular name of "quadrigati." Beneath stands the name of mighty Roma, on the earliest pieces in incuse letters which on later specimens gradually change into raised ones. These, together with one or two minor, but very beautiful and Grecian-looking bronzes, constitute a special class and should be present in even a small col-

lection. Now, travelling southward from Campania, we reach the hallowed land of "Magna Grecia" which even the Greeks of the homeland considered the "Greater Greece." The issues of the



Didrachm of Tarentum

city-colonies planted on Italian soil by Greek mother-cities, together with those of Sicily, represent the highest attainments of the Greek coiners' art. Be it the Tarentine youth astride his trusty dolphin, or the sunburned maiden of Metapontum, the placid ox of Sybaris, the viciously butting bull of Thurium, the



Didrachm of Thurium

voracious lion of Velia or the plain tripod of scrappy Croton, they are all beautiful and fetching. If any **one** piece has to be chosen from this rich array, the writer is inclined to choose the didrachm of Metapontum for the quiet dignity and beautiful balance of its reverse, the rich ear of grain. Musing over its characteristic inscription of META our



Didrachm of Metapontum

thoughts wander far into the long-past beauty of old Greece. These South-Italian issues, some of which show deep

influences of Attic and Corinthian coinage, are basically not different in character from those of Greece proper and those of the Asiatic Greeks. But their



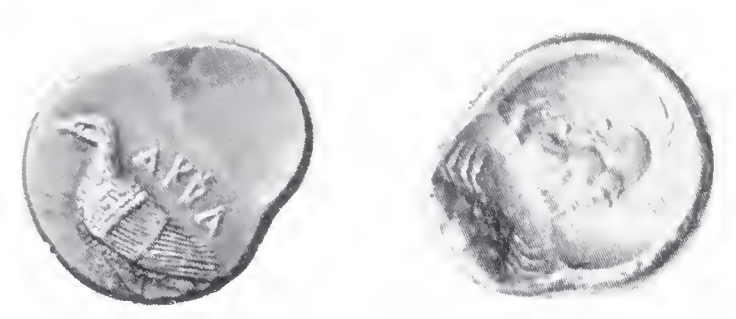
Incuse Didrachm of Metapontum

archaic types show a peculiar specialty, the incuse coinage, practiced nowhere else in the Greek world. Comparatively thin silver discs are impressed on both sides with two, carefully coördinated and joined dies, one leaving a plastic impression on the obverse, while its twin makes an incuse one on the reverse. There were two distinct dies used in each case as minor discrepancies on the otherwise fairly similar types prove to be the case. These incuse coins are fairly rare and consequently expensive. One or two in a small collection suffice to represent this interesting rarity of South Italy's Greek settlements.

Now, if we cross the narrow Straits of Messina, (Messana of the Antiquity), we enter Sicily the Three-pointed (Trinakria), where the Greek genius produced the doubtless finest specimens of ancient coins. It is well nigh impossible to say which of all the Greek coins can be considered the most beautiful specimen. But it is not difficult to maintain that the coins of Greek Sicily are far superior in respect to the beauty of modeling and the refinement of expression to the coins of any other Greek coining authority.

The most impressive and probably finest series of Sicilian coins is the one of Syracuse, the usual types being the beautiful head of the water-nymph Arethusa (provider of drinking water to the city), while the reverse shows a

biga or quadriga of horses either slowly walking or in full stride. A few copper coins of Agathocles and Hieron II and



Didrachm of Acragas

maybe a dekalitron struck in the vein of the Corinthian "foals" will be the more easily accessible pieces of Syracuse for the small collector. Further we

may obtain a didrachm of Acragas, with its eagle and very characteristic sweet-water crab, favorites and symbols of Zeus and the river-god Acragas, respectively, and also some specimens of the Messanian mule-biga and hare, the man-headed bull of Geia, the Apollo and lion-head of Leontini or some others of the nearly inexhaustible beauties of the three-cornered island. The island as a whole, above the small individual city-states, had as its symbol the triskelis: three legs joined in a decorative emblem. This was often used by Agathocles, tyrant of Syracuse to symbolize his supposed rights to the dominion of the entire island. His Corinthian-style staters usually bring along that brisk little emblem into our collection.

Domestic Coinage Executed, By Mints, During
The Month of December, 1936

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars—regular	\$ 553,301.50	_____	\$824,900.00
Quarter dollars	2,253,092.50	_____	56,200.00
Dimes	1,685,060.50	_____	_____
MINOR			
Five-cent nickels	606,395.30	135,000.00	84,700.00
One-cent bronze	560,239.65	64,000.00	75,200.00

Coinage Executed for Foreign Governments
AT PHILADELPHIA MINT

Cuba	Silver	900 fine.	1 Peso	2,000,000 pieces
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Notes on the Transportation Companies That Have Issued Paper Money

By H. R. STEPHENS

The Manassas Gap Railroad Company

The charter of this Company is dated March 11, 1850. The line of road was opened to Strasburg in 1854.

On June 1st, 1867 this road was consolidated with the Orange & Alexandria R.R. Co. (chartered in 1848) as the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad Co., and ran from Alexandria to Lynchburg.

On November 27, 1872 the O.A. & M. R.R. Co., was consolidated with the Lynchburg & Danville Railroad Co. (chartered in 1872), under the name of Washington City, Virginia Midland and Great Southern Railroad and operated a line from Alexandria Va., to Danville, N. C., a distance of 239 miles with branches totaling an additional mileage of 121.

On December 20th, 1880, the properties of the W.C., V.M. & G.S.R.R. was sold under foreclosure and on February 1st, 1881, a new company organized as its successor under the name of Virginia Midland. This road was leased to the Richmond & Danville R.R. Co., and is now a part of the present Southern Railway System.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad

This Company was chartered in Alabama on February 3rd, 1848, and subsequently in Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky, and was to run from Mobile, Ala., to East Cario, Ky. An Act of Congress approved Sept. 20, 1850 (the first national land-grant act) endowed this company with six sections of public land per mile of road constructed and equipped.

The first section of the road, 33 miles in length, was opened in 1852; the main line throughout, and branch to Columbus, Ky., in 1861; other branches being completed at various dates from 1870 to 1903 when the Mobile & Bay Shore R.R. was purchased.

This road is also controlled by the present Southern Railway System.

The New Orleans, Coast & LaFourche Transportation Co.

So far as can be determined this was not a Railroad Company, and therefore is not a part of this series of articles. If at a later date more definite information is obtained this company will be discussed further.

The Florida Railroad



This Railroad was constructed by the State of Florida, and opened for traffic in 1861. The financing was secured by a mortgage on the road and swamp lands granted by the Government to the State, \$1,540,000 in bonds were issued on these lands. There were also issued bonds to the same amount, called free land bonds, secured by a mortgage on lands donated to the Company. The purpose of this road was to provide a more direct line for commerce between the Atlantic Ports, New Orleans and Havana, the line running from Fernandina to Cedar Keys, Fla., a distance of 154 miles.

Before the road could really be said to have been in complete operation the War of the Rebellion broke out and the course of its tracks greatly injured.

The Company failed to pay interest on the first issue of bonds, and the road and lands secured by the mortgage were sold by the Commissioners of the Internal Fund of the State of Florida for the sum of \$320,000, and a new company organized with a capital of \$3,000,000.

In 1880 one train was being run each way daily. As a matter of curious information this road was operated under the name of the Atlantic, Gulf and West India Transit Co.'s Railroad, and was considered a private line. This latter road is now part of the Seaboard Airline Railway.

State of Virginia.



Manassas Gap Rail Road Company

1861

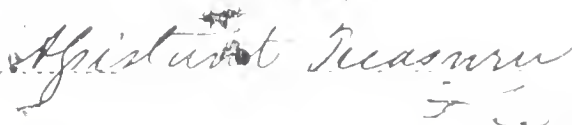
DUE BY THE,

MANASSAS GAP RAIL ROAD COMPANY,

ONE DOLLAR.

Payable in Virginia Bank Notes by the Treasurer to Bearer, on presentation of three five bills, in sum of **FIVE DOLLARS.**

Witness the signature of the Assistant Treasurer



10 CENTS

MONTE AND ONTO RAILROAD CO.

WILL PAY **TEN CENTS** TO BEARER

Five Dollars, or its multiple is presented

MAON, MISS.

FEBRUARY 15th, 1862.

A. F. Smith, Treasurer.


By *J. King*

Wilton Brooks, Pres.

By *C. Bringham*

Received in payment of freight or
passage by all the roads in the State of

1



ONE

No. 19 Conn Street.

Due the Bearer, on demand, in current Funds, by the

NEW ORLEANS, COAST AND LAPOURCHE TRANSPORTATION CO.,

ONE DOLLAR,


redeemable in sum of not less than Five Dollars.

New Orleans, December 5th, 1861.

H. Smith Secretary

J. M. Means For Pres

ONE DOLLAR



1861


FLORIDA RAIL ROAD COMPANY

Will pay **ONE DOLLAR** on demand

in transportation to bearer, terminating at Jacksonville, Fla.

George A. ... Treas

L. G. Larkins Sup



Lincoln Civil War Tokens and Cards

By JOSEPH BARNET

Following is a list of the Civil War tokens and cards bearing portrait of Lincoln.

C—Copper. B—Brass. N—Nickel. CN—Copper-Nickel. WM—White metal. Ger. Sil.—German Silver. L—Lead. S—Silver.

The reference numbers are those in the work of Hetrich and Guttag, "Civil War List of Tokens and Tradesmen's Cards."

- 1—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln facing left. "18 Abm. Lincoln 64 President."
Rev.—Eagle resting upon a cannon. "Liberty For All. 1864." C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM, S. H.-G. 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685.
- 2—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Statue of Washington on horse (monument in Union Square, New York). "First in War, First in Peace. 1863." C (thick), N. H.-G. 685A, 685B.
- 3—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—U. S. shield, star on each side. "Our Union." C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 690A, 691.
- 4—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"O. K." in center of thirteen links. C, B, N. H.-G. 692, 693, 693A.
- 5—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"G" in center of square and compass. Break in die on right side of compass. C. H.-G. 693B.
- 6—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Open wreath, star above, shield and two flags below. "Free-dom" in two lines. C, B, CN (over cent), WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 698A, 699.
- 7—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Similar to last. "Free-dom" in much smaller letters. C, B, N. H.-G. 699A, 699B, 699C.
- 8—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Open wreath inclosing "America" and thirteen stars. C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM, S. H.-G. 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 704A, 705.
- 9—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Blank. WM. H.-G. 704B.
- 10—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"No Compromise With Traitors" in open wreath. Two cannons below. C. H.-G. 706.
- 11—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Hat. 1863. Furnishing Goods. Six stars. C. H.-G. 707.
- 12—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Palm tree. 1864. "Ingenio Equador." C. H.-G. 707A.
- 13—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"C. P. Sedgwick & Co. Variety Goods | Bloomingdale, Ills." C. H.-G. 2125A.
- 14—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Turkey gobbler in center. "Washington Market" above, "Exchange" below. C. H.-G. 6271.
- 15—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"Peck & Orvis | Druggists | & | Grocers | Baraboo | Wis." C. H.-G. 9837A.
- 16—Obv.—Same as last, but no date.
Rev.—Blank. Lead. H.-G. 707B.
- 17—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln facing left. "The Right Man in the Right Place. 1864."
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 4. C. H.-G. 707C.
- 18—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 7. C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM. H.-G. 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713.
- 19—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 10. C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM. H.-G. 714, 715, 716, 717, 718.
- 20—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln to left, surrounded by thirteen stars. 1864.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 1. C, B, N, CN (over cent), WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 724A, 725.
- 21—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 2. C, N, CN, Ger. Sil., L. H.-G. 726, 728, 729, 730, 731.
- 22—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 3. C, B, N, CN, WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 736A, 737.
- 23—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 4. C, B, N, CN, WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 738, 738A, 738A, 738B, 739, 739A, 740, 741, 742A, 742B.
- 24—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 5. C, B, N, CN, WM. H.-G. 743, 743A, 743B, 743C, 743D.
- 25—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 6. C, B, N, CN, WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 748A.
- 26—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 7. C, B, CN. H.-G. 750, 751, 753.
- 27—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Blank. WM. H.-G. 753A.
- 28—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 10. C. H.-G. 756.



- 29—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"Live and Let Live. 1863." Vegetables in center. C. H.-G. 760.
- 30—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 13. C, B, Nickel-plated, CN, WM, S, Ger. Sil. H.-G. 2126, 2127, 2128, 2128A, 2129, 2129A, 2130.
- 31—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"C. L. R." in open wreath. C, B, CN, WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 5997, 5997A, 5997B, 5997C, 5997D, 5997E, 5997F.
- 32—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 14. C. H.-G. 6273A.
- 33—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 15. C, B, N, CN, WM, Ger. Sil., S. H.-G. 9838, 9839, 9840, 9841, 9842, 9842A, 9843.
- 34—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Bust of Washington to left. "Pater Patriae." C. H.-G. 760A.
- 35—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Same as reverse of No. 12. C. H.-G. 760B.
- 36—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln facing right, surrounded by thirty-five stars. 1864 below.
Rev.—Eagle with wings spread, "Lincoln And Union" above, two branches below. C, B, N, gold-plated, silver-plated. H.-G. 761A, 761, 763A, 762, 763.
- 37—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"Lincoln And Union." C, B, N, gold-plated. H.-G. 764A, 764B, 764C, 764.
- 38—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln facing right. "Abraham Lincoln 1864."
Rev.—Indian head to left. Thirteen stars. 1864. C. H.-G. 765A.
- 39—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Bust of McClellan to left. "Maj. Gen. Geo. B. McClellan U. S. A." C. H.-G. 765B.
- 40—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Bust of Grant to left. C, WM. H.-G. 766, 766A.
- 41—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Eagle in flight, thirteen stars above, 1863 below. C, WM. H.-G. 767, 769.
- 42—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Shield and flags inclosed in wreath WM, S. H.-G. 771, 772.
- 43—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Crossed flags. S. H.-G. 773.
- 44—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—Flags, cannons, drums. 1864. C, B, WM, S. H.-G. 773A, 774, 777, 778.
- 45—Obv.—Same as last.
Rev.—"Stoner & Shroyer | Dry Goods | Adamsville | Ohio." C, B, WM, S. H.-G. 6413, 6414, 6417, 6418.
- 46—Obv.—Bust of Lincoln to right. "For President Abraham Lincoln," small "R. L." below bust.
Rev.—Bust of Johnson to right. "For Vice President Andrew Johnson." C, B. H.-G. 778A, 778B.
- 47—Obv.—Same as last, without initials under bust.
Rev.—As last. C, B. H.-G. 778C, 778D.

United States Commemorative Coins

(CONTINUED)

The Alabama Half Dollar



Half-Dollar, 1921. Obverse; Accolated busts of William Wyatt Bibb, the first Governor of Alabama, and Thomas E. Kilby, the Governor in 1920; to left, beneath, in small letters, BIBB-1921-KILBY. In field, at lower left, twelve stars in three lines; at lower right, ten stars in three lines; above, 2 on either side of a St. Andrew's cross; around center border, at top, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; forming inner border, at top, IN GOD WE TRUST; at bottom, Half-Dollar.

Reverse: The seal of Alabama; an eagle to left with raised wings, arrows in talons; in back, the shield of the United States; in eagle's beak a ribbon with the State's motto, HERE WE REST; around border, at top, STATE OF ALABAMA; at bottom, 1819 CENTENNIAL 1919. Edge, reeded. Size 19. Models by Laura G. Fraser whose signature L.G.F. is to be found in field near eagle. Number coined 54,038. Melted, 5,000. Distributed, 49,038.

Half-Dollar, 1921 Same as above, but with the special mark 2 x 2. This, the St. Andrew's cross between 2 2 is the emblem of the Alabama State Flag. Number coined and issued, 6,006.

This coin was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the admission of Alabama to the Union. The date 1921 refers to the year of issue during which the Centennial was celebrated, although the 100th anniversary was in 1919.

Alabama, popularly called the "Cotton State", was first seen by white men in 1529 when Fernando de Soto discovered it on his exploring expedition westward from Florida.

Near the head of Mobile Bay he fought a fierce battle with the Indians. Having routed them, he claimed the country for Spain and resumed his travels. Afterward England laid claim to the territory north of the Gulf, and asserted rights to trade with the Indians. Because of the discoveries of Marquette, Joliet and La Salle, France in 1678 claimed the same region. The first white settlement in what is now Alabama, was made by the French in 1702, when Bienville built Fort Condé, on the Mobile River a few miles north of the Bay, and established a colony there. In 1711 this settlement was moved permanently to the site of the present city of Mobile, and until 1722 was the capital of the Province of Louisiana. The colony languished until the importation of negro slaves in 1721, after which it prospered. After France ceded Alabama to Great Britain in 1763, there began years of controversy between England and Spain and the United States over its ownership. The occupation by the United States military forces in 1813 brought the whole of the present state under Federal jurisdiction. During the war of 1812 the Indian tribes were inflamed against the Americans by Indian allies of the British, who furnished them with arms and ammunition, and at Fort Mims the Creeks massacred five hundred persons. The Indians were subdued by General Andrew Jackson, who broke the power of the Creek Confederacy. On December 14, 1819, Alabama was admitted to Statehood. The capital was at Tuscaloosa, 1826-1846, when it was moved to Montgomery. The population not including Indians, was 127,900 by the 1820 census.

Famous Coin Denominations

DINAR. A Muhammadan gold coin, first issued in the latter part of the seventh century. The name is derived from the Roman Denarius. The weight of the early Dinârs was about sixty-six grains, but at later periods the same term was used for gold coins of greater or less weight and size.



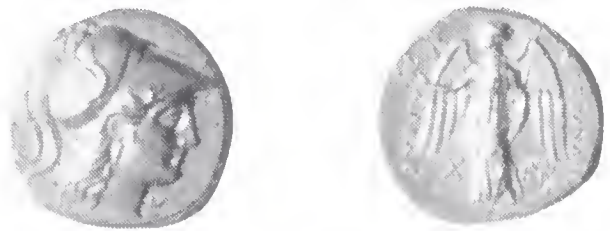
The quality of the metal was almost always fine gold, the chief exceptions being the coins struck in Turkey and Morocco, some of which contain a large amount of alloy.



DINAR. A silver coin of Servia adopted in 1867 when that country followed the Latin Union in its monetary system. It is of the same value as the Franc, Lira, etc., and is subdivided into one hundred Paras. There are pieces of ten and twenty Dinara in gold.



DISME. A pattern or experimental coin of the United States issued in 1792, with a corresponding half. "See" Dime.



DI-STATER. The double of the gold Stater that is illustrated. It occurs in the coins struck by Alexander the Great. This name also designated a silver coin equal to two silver Staters.



DIXAIN. A French billon coin which, as its name indicates, was the tenth part of the silver Franc and later of the Ecu.

In the reign of Louis XII (1498-1515) were issued the Dixain à Couronné and the Dixain du Dauphiné, both of a similar type to the Douzain ("q.v."). Under Francis I (1515-1547) it received the name Franciscus, probably from the large letter F with the crown above, which is a prominent feature.

In 1791 an essay was struck in bell-metal of a coin to equal one tenth of the Livre, and the prototype of the Decime ("q.v."). It bears on one side the date in a wreath and on the reverse the word DIXAIN surrounded by the inscription METAL DE CLOCHE.



DOBLA. A gold coin of Spain, introduced about the time of Peter I

(1350-1368) and struck at Seville, Toledo, etc. The original type bore on one side a three-turreted castle, but this was followed by the portrait variety under Ferdinand and Isabella (1474-1516). The earlier variety is frequently known as the Dobra Castellana and the other as the Dobra à la Cabeza.

The value of the Dobra, also called Doblon, was two Escudos or one eighth of the Onza. There were multiples, called Doblon de à Cuatro and Doblon de à Ocho, the latter was of course the same as the Onza; it was struck principally for Mexico and other Spanish colonies, and is commonly known as the Doubloon.

Another variety, the Dublone, was issued by Charles V during the Spanish occupation of the Low Countries.

By a royal decree of 1849 the metric system was introduced in Spain, and the money of account was made as follows: One Doblón de Isabel was equal to ten Escudos, or one hundred Reales, or five gold Piastres.

In the Italian coinage the term Dobra is generally applied to the double Ducato di Oro, such as was struck by the Emperor Charles V for Naples and Sicily, etc. "See" Chalmers (p. 395).



DOBRA. A gold coin of Portugal which was first issued in the reign of Pedro I (1357-1367) and equal to 82 Soldi.

At the beginning of the reign of John V (1706-1750) appeared the Dobra de oito Escudos, and the Dobra de

quatro Escudos, valued respectively at eight and four Escudos, or 12,800 and 6400 Reis. The former coin was commonly known as the Joannes, and in the British West Indies, where they circulated extensively, this was abbreviated into Joe, the latter coin being called the half Joe. The striking of these coins ceased by virtue of a Portuguese proclamation of November 29, 1732. They gradually disappeared from circulation, and in time the half Dobras were improperly alluded to in some places as Joes instead of half Joes.

It should be added that in 1731 a Dobra of twenty-four and another of sixteen Escudos were struck. These large gold coins are illustrated by Aragao (pl. xli. 23, 24) and described by Meili.

In 1750, the Dobra, now reduced to four Escudos, or 6400 Reis, received the name of Peca, and this designation continued until its abolition early in the nineteenth century.



DOPPIA, from "doppio", double, is the name of a former gold coin of a number of the Italian States, and the double of some recognized unit.

It appears in Milan in the fifteenth century under the Sforza dynasty as a piece of two Zecchini, and it bore the same value in Malta.

As a coin of two Scudi it occurs in the coinage of Genoa, Venice, Mantua, the Papal series both at Rome and Bologna, etc.

The name is variously written as Doppione and Doppietta, the latter form usually for Sardinia.

The Gold Coins of South America

By WAYTE RAYMOND

BOLIVIA

Potosi Mint. M.m.—PTS in Monogram

First Type



Obverse—LIBRE POR LA CONSTITUCION. Bust of Bolivar in uniform, BOLIVAR below.

Reverse—REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. National arms, date and value below.

8 Scudos	4 Scudos	2 Scudos	1 Scudo	1/2 Scudo
1831			1831	
1832			1832	
1833			1833	
	1834	1834	1834	
1835		1835	1835	
1836			1836	
1837			1837	
1838			1838	
1839		1839	1839	1839
1840				1840



Second Type

Obverse—LIBRE POR LA CONSTITUCION. Laureated head of Bolivar, BOLIVAR below.

Reverse—REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. National arms, date and value below.

8 Scudos	4 Scudos	2 Scudos	1 Scudo	1/2 Scudo
1841	1841	1841	1841	1841
1842			1842	1842
1843				1843
				1844
1845				1845
1846				1846
1847				1847



Third Type

Obverse—LIBRE POR LA CONSTITUCION. Bare head of Bolivar to left, BOLIVAR incuse on neck.
Reverse—REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. National arms, value and date 1851 below.
Assayer's initials—M.F.
Only 1 and 8 Scudos.



Fourth Type

Obverse—LIBRE POR LA CONSTITUCION. Laureated head of Bolivar to right, BOLIVAR on neck.
Reverse—REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. National arms, value and date below. Assayer's initials—F.P.

8 Scudos	4 Scudos	2 Scudos	1 Scudo	1/2 Scudo
1852			1852	1852
1853			1853	1853
				1854
1855			1855	1855
1856			1856	1856



Fifth Type

Obverse—REPUBLICA BOLIVIANA. National arms.
Reverse—LA UNION ES LA FUERZA. Weight and value—
(1 ONZA 500 Gs, or 1 ESCUDO 50 Gs. or 1/2 ESCUDO 25 Gs.) 9 D: FINO.
in wreath of laurel and oak leaves. 1868 F.E. below.
Only the three denominations are known, all dated 1868.

The Shell Coins of North Siam

By DR. S. P. MARTINI

FROM time immemorial, shells, notably cowrie shells, have passed for coin of the realm in certain parts of the far East. In Africa as well as parts of Asia, cowries have been used as currency. In Siam their value was at one time definitely fixed by royal edict in terms of metal coinage, but their use there long ago passed out of fashion, altogether.

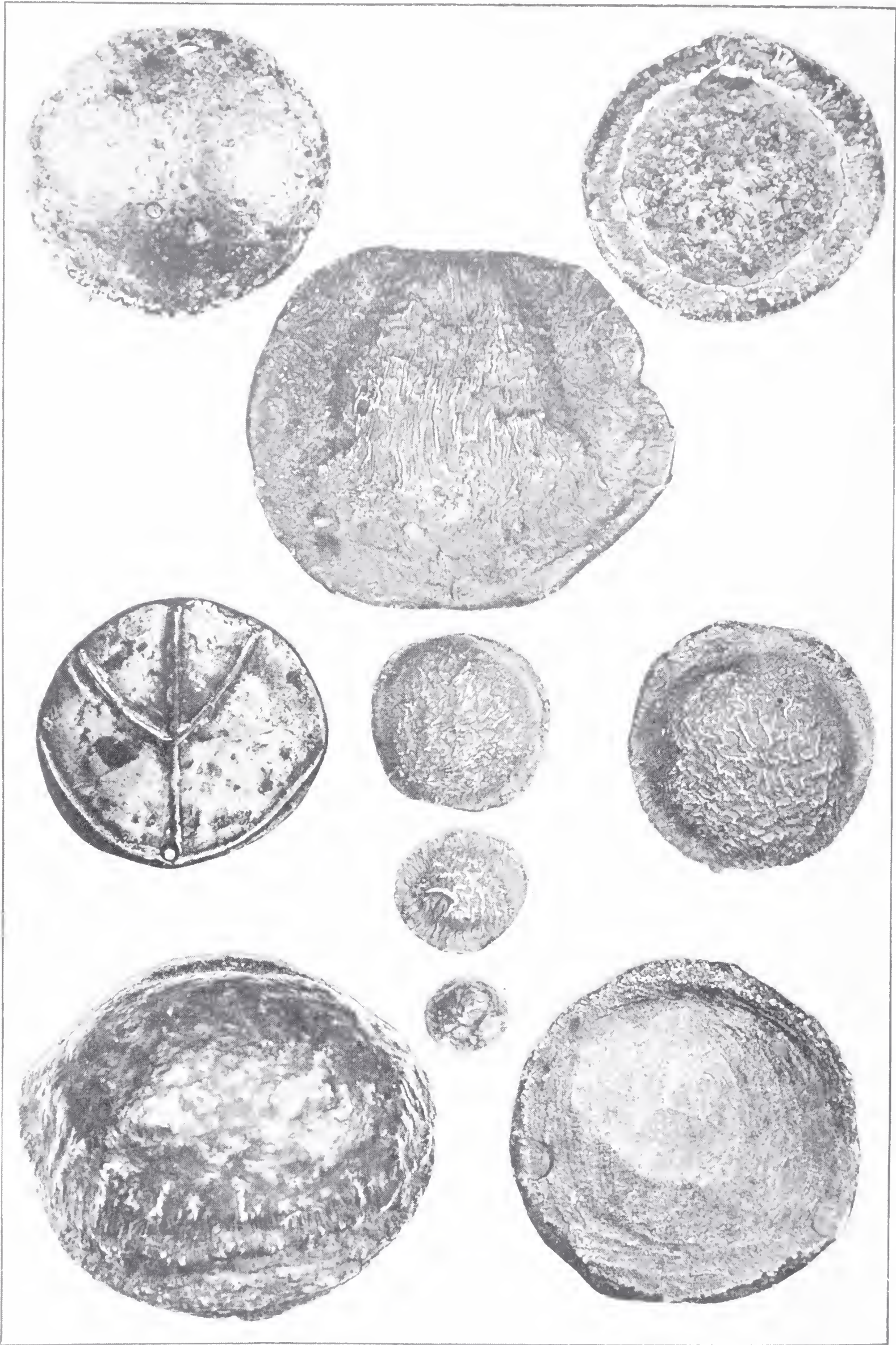
It is probable, however, that the people in the region of north Siam are the only ones who have ever made and used metal coins which have been designed to resemble shells in shape and appearance. The idea must have come from the actual use of shells as money in the past, and it is interesting to note that the area where the metal shell coins have been used is nowhere within several hundred miles of the sea. At the time when these coins which we see now were made, between sixty and a hundred years or more ago, north Siam was composed of a group of almost completely independent principalities, each owing a nominal allegiance to the king of Siam. Ordinary trade was mostly by the exchange of goods, and though these shell coins were issued, they were in insufficient quantity, and there was a definite shortage of coins until Siamese currency became commonly used. There are still residents of north Siam who can remember when salt was used by weight as money.

The shell coins are found in three principal types, which I shall describe briefly. The exact methods by which they were made are not known, but it is said that in the case of all of them the metal was poured on egg yolk; this

or some resinous material remains on the under surface of the metal with a mottled yellow and brown color.

The shell money of Chieng Mai was coined on the grounds of the great pagoda in that city, and ceased to be made approximately sixty-five years ago. It is a most peculiar type of coinage, resembling somewhat a clam shell, with a very thin black corrugated convex surface, and a thick flat under surface which contains an opening, so that the coin is hollow. In fact, the convex surface is too thin to be practical, because of its fragility, and the coins which have had much wear have doubtless been broken and melted up long ago. Apparently these coins were used only for such things as buying fields, paying taxes, and for the pledge of fidelity which, it is the custom of the country for the groom to give to the bride's parents at the time of a wedding. Although one would never suspect it from the appearance, these coins are always of silver, not of the highest grade, but of a constant degree of fineness. This money occurs in a standard large size, and in fractional sizes also. The standard size, and sometimes the pieces of half standard size, have either two or three marks, the significance of which is not known, on the convex side near the rim. These marks, of which there are several varieties, are the reverse, or mirror images of each other on opposite sides of the coin.

The shell money attributed to the principality of Nan is in the form of thick solid discs, always of the same size, but varying in their content of



silver from pure copper or bronze to about half silver. With these it is the convex side which is the egg-yolk side, while the concave surface is nearly flat, with a circle of silver on the surface surrounded by a thin raised ring of the same material extending from an edge of the coin. Often this is the only silver in the coin. There is frequently a very small hole in the coin where this raised circle meets the edge of the coin. The size of the silver circle indicates roughly the silver content of the main substance of the piece. These coins also resemble clam shells, but where as in the shell money of Chieng Mai it is the outside of the make believe shell which inter-

ests us, here it is the inside. Unlike the Chieng Mai coins, too, these pieces were made to withstand hard wear, and many of them appear to have had it.

The third type of shell money is a great deal rarer than the other two, and it is not known in what part of north Siam it was made. It is dome-shaped, with a big concavity and usually a large opening beneath. The people call it pig-mouth money. It is always made of silver. The size and weight vary somewhat, but not greatly, and it is never particularly small. It is stronger than the shell money of Chieng Mai, but it could not stand very hard usage, and its shape is hardly a practical one.

Notes on United States Commemorative Issues.

Orders are now being accepted by the commission handling the Norfolk, Virginia commemorative half-dollar. The issue will be 20,000 coins from one mint only. Further information will appear in the March JOURNAL. Should any of our readers wish to place an order, the address of the commission is; Norfolk Advertising Board, 107 West Main St., Norfolk, Virginia. The coins will sell for \$1.50 each, plus 15 cents for the first coin and 5 cents for each additional coin.

The Delaware Swedish Tercentenary Commission expects to begin distribution of half-dollar within the near future. Write to the Equitable Trust Company, Wilmington, Delaware, for detailed information.

Mr. John Callahan, Chairman of the Commission for the Wisconsin commemorative half-dollar, write that orders are still being accepted. The price is \$1.50 per coin, plus 7 cents for postage and insurance.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Prices Revised to February 15th, 1937

The great demand for United States Commemorative Coins has made it impossible for us to maintain the prices quoted in the Standard Catalogue or Price List. It has, therefore, been deemed advisable to publish a monthly list of our current prices; also our offers for such coins as are needed for our stock. We have adopted the terms of "Bid" and "Asked" as a convenient mode of expression. Prices are subject to change without notice. Postage extra in all cases. We will pay the "Bid" price for any reasonable number of coins sent us. Collectors having large amounts of any Commemorative Coin should write stating quantity before sending. All quotations are for uncirculated coins. This list cancels all previous ones.

		Bid	Ask			Bid	Ask
1.	1892 Half Dollar. Columbus.....		1.50	38.	1935 Half Dollar. Spanish Trail	4.00	6.50
2.	1893 Half Dollar. Columbus.....		1.00	39.	1935 Half Dollar. Boone.		
3.	1893 Quarter Dol. Isabella		3.00		With small 1934 date.....		2.50
4.	1900 Dollar. Lafayette.....	3.00	5.00	39a.	1935 Half Dollar. Same D.....		
5.	1915 Half Dol. Pan. Pacific	12.50	20.00	39b.	1935 Half Dollar. Same S.....		
6.	1918 Half Dollar. Lincoln		1.50		Sold only by the pair.....	55.00	
7.	1920 Half Dollar. Maine		6.00	40.	1935 Half Dollar. Texas.....		
8.	1920 Half Dollar. Pilgrim		2.00	40a.	1935 Half Dollar. Texas D.....		
9.	1921 Half Dollar. Pilgrim	6.00	10.00	40b.	1935 Half Dollar. Texas S.....		
10.	1921 Half Dollar. Missouri	13.50	25.00		Sold only in sets of three.....		9.00
11.	1921 Half Dollar. Missouri.2*4	20.00	35.00	41.	1936 Half Dollar. Arkansas.....		
12.	1921 Half Dollar. Alabama		7.50	41a.	1936 Half Dollar. Arkansas D...		
13.	1921 Half Dollar. Alabama.2x2	12.00	20.00	41b.	1936 Half Dollar. Arkansas S...		
14.	1922 Half Dollar. Grant		2.50		Sold only in sets of three.....	4.00	7.50
15.	1922 Half Dollar. Grant*	40.00	60.00	42.	1936 Half Dollar. Rhode Island		
16.	1923 Half Dollar. Monroe	1.25	2.00	42a.	1936 Half Dollar. Rhode Is. D		
17.	1924 Half Dollar. Huguenot.....	2.00	3.00	42b.	1936 Half Dollar. Rhode Is. S		
18.	1925 Half Dollar. Lexington.....	1.25	2.00		Sold only in sets of three.....		9.00
19.	1925 Half Dollar. Stone Mt.		1.25	43.	1936 Half Dollar. Boone		2.00
20.	1925 Half Dollar. California ...	1.75	3.00	43a.	1936 Half Dollar. Boone D.....		
21.	1925 Half Dollar. Vancouver ...	5.50	10.00	43b.	1936 Half Dollar. Boone S.....		
22.	1926 Half Dollar. Sesqui		2.00		Sold by the pair only.....		12.00
23.	1926 Half Dollar. Oregon		2.00	44.	1936 Half Dollar. Texas.....		
24.	1926 Half Dollar. Oregon S		2.00	44a.	1936 Half Dollar. Texas D.....		
25.	1927 Half Dollar. Vermont	2.25	4.00	44b.	1936 Half Dollar. Texas S		
26.	1928 Half Dollar. Hawaii	10.00	17.50		Sold only in sets of three		7.50
27.	1928 Half Dollar. Oregon	3.00	5.50	45.	1936 Half Dollar. Oregon		5.00
28.	1933 Half Dollar. Oregon.....	6.00	10.00	45a.	1936 Half Dollar. Oregon S ...	6.00	10.00
29.	1934 Half Dollar. Oregon.....	3.00	5.50	46.	1936 Half Dollar. San Diego ..		2.25
30.	1934 Half Dollar. Maryland		2.00	47.	1936 Half Dollar. Cleveland ..		2.50
31.	1934 Half Dollar. Texas		1.75	48.	1936 Half Dollar. Wisconsin ..		2.25
32.	1934 Half Dollar. Boone	2.50	4.00	49.	1936 Half Dollar. Cincinnati.		
33.	1935 Half Dollar. Boone		2.50	49a.	1936 Half Dollar. Cincinnati D		
33a.	1935 Half Dollar. Boone D.....	4.00	6.50	49b.	1936 Half Dollar. Cincinnati S		
33b.	1935 Half Dollar. Boone S ...	4.00	6.50		Sold only in sets of three		35.00
34.	1935 Half Dollar. Connecticut		4.50	50.	1936 Half Dollar. Long Island		2.00
35.	1935 Half Dollar. Arkansas	2.25	3.50	51.	1936 Half Dollar. York, Me. ...		2.25
35a.	1935 Half Dollar. Arkansas D.	3.50	6.00	52.	1936 Half Dollar. Bridgeport ..		3.00
35b.	1935 Half Dollar. Arkansas S .	3.50	6.00	53.	1936 Half Dollar. Lynchburg ..		4.50
36.	1935 Half Dollar. Hudson ...	6.00	10.00	54.	1936 Half Dollar. Elgin, Ill.		2.25
37.	1935 Half Dollar. San Diego		2.00	55.	1936 Half Dollar. Albany, N.Y.		3.00
				56.	1936 Half Dollar. San Francisco		2.25

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1935 Pony Express. Coin silver ..	3.00	Silver25

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1903 Dollar. Jefferson	4.75	7.00	1915 50 Dol. Pan. Pac. Round.....	200.00	300.00
1903 Dollar. McKinley	4.75	7.00	1915 50 Dol. Pan. Pac. Octag....	165.00	250.00
1904 Dollar. Lewis-Clark	10.00	15.00	1916 Dollar. McKinley	3.50	5.50
1905 Dollar. Lewis-Clark	8.00	12.50	1917 Dollar. McKinley	6.50	10.00
1915 2½ Dol. Pan. Pacific	12.00	17.50	1922 Dollar. Grant	8.00	12.00
1915 Dollar. Pan. Pacific	4.00	6.00	1922 Dollar. Grant. Star	5.50	8.00
			1926 2½ Dollar. Sesqui	5.00	7.50



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